



Appendix B – Overview of procedural changes

Overview of Procedural Changes

Item	42 nd Parliament	43 rd Parliament	Comments/ Relevant standing orders
Acknowledgement of country	No acknowledgement of country	Speaker to make acknowledgement of country every morning before prayers	Introduced for the first time in 43 rd Parliament (SO 38)
Question Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time limits for questions or answers Answers must be relevant to the question 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time limits of 45 seconds for questions and 4 minutes for answers Answers must be 'directly relevant' to the question Only one point of order on relevance allowed for each answer 	(SOs 86, 100, 104)
Matter of public importance (MPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Question Time, documents and ministerial statements on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays Duration, 1 hour Speaking times – 15 mins for proposer and Member next speaking, 10 mins for next two Members speaking and 5 mins for any other Member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Question Time and documents on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays Duration, 1 hour 30 mins Speaking times – 15 mins for proposer and next Member speaking and 10 mins for any other Member 	Duration of MPI extended to 1 hour 30 minutes. MPI to follow Question Time (and documents). (SOs 1, 34, 46)
Private Members' business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total time allocated for committee and delegation business and private Members' business on Mondays in Chamber, 1 hr, and in Main Committee, 1 hr 35 mins Government and Opposition Whips schedule private Members' business on Mondays 5 mins speaking time on presentation of private Members' bills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total time allocated for committee and delegation business and private Members' business on Mondays in Chamber, 3 hrs 30 mins, and in Main Committee, 5 hrs Selection Committee schedules private Members' business on Mondays 10 mins speaking time on presentation of private Members' bills Selection Committee recommends items of private Members' business to be voted on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional time for private Members' business in Chamber and Main Committee Role for Selection Committee in scheduling private Members' business and in recommending items to be voted on Increase in speaking time for presentation of private Members' bills from 5 to 10 mins (SOs 1, 34, 41, 141, 192, 222)
Adjournment debate	<p><i>Chamber</i></p> <p>Monday: 9.30pm–10pm Tuesday: 8.30pm–9pm Wednesday: 7.30pm–8pm Thursday: 4.30pm–5pm</p> <p><i>Main Committee</i></p> <p>Thursday: 12.30pm–1pm</p>	<p><i>Chamber</i></p> <p>Monday: 9.30pm–10.30pm Tuesday: 9.30pm–10.30pm Wednesday: 7pm–8pm Thursday: 4.30pm–5pm</p> <p><i>Main Committee:</i></p> <p>Thursday: 12.30pm–1pm</p>	Length of adjournment debate in Chamber increased from 30 mins to 1 hour on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. (SOs 1, 29, 31, 34, 192)
90 second statements	In Main Committee on Mondays (6.40pm-6.55pm).	In Chamber on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, immediately prior to Question Time (1.45pm-2pm).	(SOs 1, 43)

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House committees (general purpose standing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 committees • Membership of committees is 10 • 2 supplementary members allowed on an inquiry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 committees • Membership of committees is 7 • 4 supplementary members allowed on an inquiry • Selection Committee to refer controversial bills/bills requiring additional consultation to relevant committee • Provision for Chairs and Deputy Chairs to make statements in House regarding inquiries during time for committee business on Mondays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of committees and membership of committees reduced • Number of supplementary members allowed increased • Referral of bills to committees by Selection Committee and provision for statements in the House regarding inquiries are new reforms <p>(SOs 39(a), 143, 215, 222(iii))</p>
Government responses to House/Joint committee reports	No formal time limit for government responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six month time limit for government responses • When time limit not met, statement of reasons for delay to be presented in House by relevant Minister and possibility of Minister being required to appear before relevant committee 	Resolution of the House (adopted 29 September 2010)
Time limits for second reading speeches	20 min limit for second reading speeches (Excludes speeches by Mover, Leader of Opposition or Member representing for government bills; and Mover, Prime Minister or Member representing and Leader of Opposition or Member representing for private Members' bills)	15 min limit for second reading speeches, or lesser time determined by Selection Committee.(Excludes speeches by Mover, Leader of Opposition or Member representing for government bills; and Mover, Prime Minister or Member representing and Leader of Opposition or Member representing for private Members' bills)	Time limit for most second reading speeches reduced from 20 to 15 minutes. Selection Committee may reduce time-limit further. (SOs 1, 222(a)(iv))
Questions during second reading debate	No provision for questions during second reading debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 5 mins at conclusion of second reading speech, Member may be questioned in relation to their speech • Time limit of 30 secs for questions and 2 mins for replies • Members not obliged to take questions • Does not apply to Minister's second reading speech, speech of main Opposition speaker and Minister's speech closing debate 	(Sessional order 142A)
Recommittal of votes	No provision for recommittal of vote where Member accidentally absent	If a division has miscarried by a Member being accidentally absent or similar incident, a Member may move a suspension of standing orders to enable the House to divide again. If agreed to, the question is put again.	A suspension motion moved without notice can be carried only by an absolute majority of Members (SOs 47, 132(b))

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House Selection Committee	No House Selection Committee	Established to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange timetable and order of committee and delegation business and private Members' business on Mondays • Recommend items of private Members' business to be voted on • Select bills for referral to relevant committee • Subject to SO 1, set speaking times for second reading debates 	Selection Committee re-introduced with wider role than Selection Committees established in 41 st and previous parliaments (SO 222)
House Appropriations and Administration Committee	No House Appropriations and Administration Committee	Established to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • estimates of funding for the Department of the House of Representatives (DHR) • proposals for administrative changes and variation to service provided by the DHR • administration and funding of security measures affecting the House • proposals for works in the parliamentary precincts requiring parliamentary approval Committee will make an annual report to the House on its operations	Established for the first time in 43 rd Parliament (SO 222A)
Hours of sitting	<i>Chamber</i> Monday: 12 noon–10pm Tuesday: 2pm–9pm Wednesday: 9am–8pm Thursday: 9am–5pm <i>Main Committee</i> Monday: 4pm–6.40pm (if required), and 6.40pm–9.30pm Tuesday: 4pm–8.30pm (if required) Wednesday: 9.30am–1pm, and 4pm–7.30pm (if required) Thursday: 9.30am–1pm	<i>Chamber</i> Monday: 10am–10.30pm Tuesday: 2pm–10.30pm Wednesday: 9am–8pm Thursday: 9am–5pm <i>Main Committee</i> Monday: 10.30am–1.30pm, and 4pm–10pm Tuesday: 4pm–10pm (if required) Wednesday: 9.30am–1pm, and 4pm–7.30pm (if required) Thursday: 9.30am–1pm	Sitting hours extended on Mondays and Tuesdays in Chamber and Main Committee (SOs 29, 34, 192)

